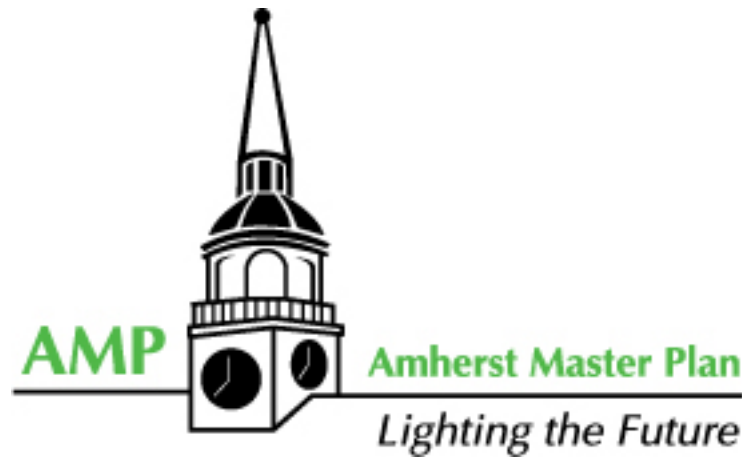


AMP: AMHERST MASTER PLAN LIGHTING THE FUTURE



NATURAL RESOURCES

WANT: Voice of Amherst¹:

- *“Our wildlife and abundant natural resources help define our town character.”*
- *“Amherst’s tree-shaded winding roads and stone walls add to the town’s character and need protection.”*
- *“We need a system of trails and safe walking areas.”*
- *“Amherst’s rural land seems to be disappearing and residential subdivisions seem to be appearing everywhere. Development is not controlled. Amherst is not a rural town anymore – it is a suburb.”*

HAVE: Existing Conditions²:

- Natural beauty, open space and agricultural lands
- Highly motivated, skilled, and active Conservation Commission
- 1,400 acres of protected conservation land managed by Conservation Commission (about 6% of town’s total area)
- Several existing trails (Bicentennial Trail) making connections
- Town support for land acquisition
- A sprawling commercial corridor (Route 101A) that visually conflicts with the town’s character

¹ Resident input, based on various visioning exercises.

² Consultant documentation, based on review of previous studies, interviews, meetings, site visits.

AMP: AMHERST MASTER PLAN LIGHTING THE FUTURE

MAIN ISSUES: Opportunities & Challenges:

- Need to continue efforts to protect conservation land
- Need to protect corridors that make connections for wildlife and people (develop town-wide pathway system)
- Protecting farm land
- Funding for continuing these efforts
- Improving information about existing resources
- Protecting and improving water quality
- Future of New Boston Air Station
- Golf courses
- Need to revisit/refine landscape requirements within existing zoning regulations